(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the India-Pakistan technical level talks on cross LoC confidence building measures held in New Delhi on May 2, 2006, it was agreed that trade in certain approved items would be permitted across the LoC.

(b) to (e) It was further decided to ensure operationalization of the truck service across the LoC and to agree on five crossing points. For the Srinagar-Muzzafarabad truck service, India has notified Salamabad as land customs station and construction of the building for this purpose has been completed. India and Pakistan have exchanged lists of commodities which, are proposed by either side to be traded across LoC. Discussions are underway on finalization of this list and other modalities. Pakistan has not yet agreed to grant MFN status to India citing extraneous political-economic and other reasons.

Effect of export duty on Iron ore and Chrome ore

1083. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government imposed export duty on Iron ore and Chrome ore on 1st March, 2007 and if so, what is the impact of this duty on export of these minerals;

(b) whether the export has increased or decreased, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the export prices, after imposing the duty, has increased or decreased;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) whether Government is planning to revise/reduce/remove the duty on above minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b), Yes, Sir. Statement showing the quantum of iron ore and chrome ore exports from various ports from India from April to June 2006 *vis-a-vis* April to June 2007 is given in the Statement (*See* below). There is a reduction of 4% in iron ore exports. Similarly, there is reduction of 41 % in chrome ore exports.

(c) and (d) Consequent to the imposition of export duty, increase in prices has been noticed in the Chinese market for sales of iron ore on spot basis. The prices have increased by about 22% to 38% depending on grade, port and shipment period. In the case of chrome ore the prices have increased by about 71% to 74% depending upon grade of chrome ore.

(e) There is no proposal under consideration at present.

Statement

India's port-wise Iron Ore export

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Port	2006-07 (Apr-June) (Prov)	2007-08 (Apr-June) (Prov)
Belekeri	5.88	9.64
Chennai	24.85	23.66
Ennore	2.38	5.10
Goa	100.94	90.06
Haldia	21.89	20.98
Hazira	3.15	–
Kakinada	10.67	7.19
Karwar	6.98	4.88
Krishnapatnam	2.00	1.00
New Mangalore	16.83	13.97
Paradip	29.06	30.15
Redi Port	1.54	1.51
Vizag	11.07	19.17
TOTAL:	237.24	227.31

Source: Goa Mineral ore Exporters Association (GMOEA), Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), MMTC Limited and Private Exporters

India's port-wise Chrome Ore export

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Port	2006-07 (Apr-June) (Prov)	2007-08 (Apr-June) (Prov)
All exports from Paradip	1.71	1.01

Source: MMTC Limited

Development of industrially backward states

1084. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to formulate a scheme to develop the industrially backward States in the Country as per the Fifth Economic Census Report;

(b) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and